WORCESTER COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER & WASTEWATER DIVISION
1000 SHORE LANE
BERLIN MD 21811

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Consumer Confidence Report

MYSTIC HARBOUR SERVICE AREA
2010 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Water & Wastewater Division of the Worcester County Department of Public Works is responsible for the provision of the safest possible drinking water to its customers in the Mystic Harbour Service Area. During the period from January 1 to December 31, 2009, we conducted tests for drinking water contaminants and tested at least 3 times every month for Total Coliform and Fecal Coliform Bacteria as required by Federal and State law. We only detected 11 contaminants and all of them were found to be significantly below established standards.

GENERAL

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that was provided to you in 2009. Included are details about the source of your water, what your water contains, and how your water compares with the standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). If you have any questions about this report or need additional information concerning the drinking water being supplied to you, please call Gary Serman at 410-641-5251, extension 115, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. any weekday.

OUR WATER IS SAFE, HOWEVER

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risks of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

SOURCE OF WATER

Your water comes from eight wells. Two wells are at depths of about 235 feet and 300 feet into the Ocean City Aquifer. Three wells are at depths of 110 feet,140 feet, and 150 feet into the Pocomoke Aquifer. Three wells are at depths of about 265 feet, 360 feet and 360 feet into the Manokin Aquifer The well lots are located in Mystic Harbour, Sunset Village, South Point Village and Oyster Harbor. The well sites are inspected regularly by State licensed County personnel. After the water comes out of the well, we adjust its pH and disinfect it to protect you against microbial contaminants. Filtration is used to remove iron from the water.

INFORMATION

The Mystic Harbour Advisory Board meets four times a year at the Mystic Harbour Club House. The public is invited to attend. For meeting times and dates, or to contact us, you can call Gary Serman at 410-641-5251, extension 115, or you can write to us at 1000 Shore Lane, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the water before we treat it include:

- *Microbial contaminants,* such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wild life.
- *Inorganic contaminants,* such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides,* which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- *Radioactive contaminants,* which are naturally-occurring.
- *Organic chemical contaminants,* including synthetic and volatile chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic tanks.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

MYSTIC HARBOUR WATER QUALITY DATA

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2009 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1-December 31, 2009. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

Terms & abbreviations used below:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level** (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Action Level** (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter • **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter • **pCi/1**: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

TEST RESULTS

	CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASUREMENT	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	Copper	N	0.017	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, test date 12/31/09.
	Lead	N	0.003	ppm	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing system, test date 12/31/09.
	Fluoride	N	0.26	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits. Test date 12/12/07
VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes)	N	36.93	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection. Test date:5/19/09
	HAA5 (Haloacetic acids)	N	16.37	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection. Test date: 5/19/09
	Di(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate	N	0.7	ppb	0	6	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories. Test date: 7/27/07
RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS	Gross Beta	N	6	pCi/l	0	50	Decay of natural deposits, test date9/10/08.
	Gross Alpha	N	2	pCi/l	0	15	Decay of natural deposits. Test date:9/10/08
	Radon- 222	N	84	pCi/l	0	200 proposed	Decay of natural deposits. Test date: 12/14/09
	Combined Radium (226 & 228)	N	0.5	pCi/l	0	15	Decay of natural deposits, test date 11/1/06
NON-REGULATED CONTAMINANTS	Sodium	N	35.5	ppm	20	na	Sodium is a natural element in groundwater. Caustic soda is added to the water system to reduce its corrosive properties. The Mystic Harbour water system has an average sodium content of 35.5 ppm. This level does exceed the level of 20 ppm recommended for individuals on physician supervised restricted diets. Concerned individuals should take this information to their physicians for personal advice. Test date 5/25/07.